

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 OMB-01 GAC-01 MC-02 ACDA-19 RSR-01 /128 W

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R 101712 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6379

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T KUWAIT 1163

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR BA

SUBJ: MEETING WITH RULER OF BAHRAIN

1. I CALLED ON SHAIKH ISA OF BAHRAIN APRIL 3 ACCOMPANIED BY CHARGE STEIN. RULER WELCOMED ME CORDIALLY AND, DURING A GENERAL DISCUSSION OF CONDITIONS IN AREA, HE AGAIN EXPRESSED HIS CONDOLENCES FOR THE KHARTOUM TRAGEDY.
 2. MEETING PROVIDED GOOD OCCASION TO DELIVER TWO COPIES OF US COASTAL SURVEY REPORT FOR WHICH ISA WAS VERY GRATEFUL. WE INFORMED HIM ADDITIONAL COPIES WOULD BE PRESENTED BY STEIN TO PRIME MINISTER KHALIFA FOLLOWING WEEK. ISA SAID THERE NO TIME TO LOSE DEVELOPING DAHRAINS' S COASTAL DEFENSES IN VIEW INCREASING PROBLEM OF ILLEGAL ENTRY INTO BAHRAIN AND GENERAL SECURITY PICTURE IN GULF.
 3. WE TALKED ABOUT KUWAIT- IRAQI DISPUTE, AND I MENTIONED HOW GRATEFUL FONMIN SABAH HAD BEEN AT RECEIVING BAHRAINI AND QAARI OFFERS OF SUPPORT FOR KUWAIT. ISA SAID NECESSITY OF COOPERATION AND COORDINATION AMONG GULF STATES BECOMING MORE OBVIOUS EVERY DAY. TWIN THREATS TO KUWAIT IN NORTH AND OMAN IN SOUTH WERE NO ACCIDENT. GULF STATES COULD
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DRAW TOGETHER TO SURVIVE OR BE EATEN ONE BY ONE.

4. ISA EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH RECENT VISIT OF SAUDI MINDEF SULTAN WHO HAD EMPHASIZED SAUDI INTEREST IN ACTIVE STUDY OF STEPS TO IMPROVE GULF SECURITY, INCLUDING JOINT SAUDI-BAHRAIN DEFENSE PLANS. IN THIS CONNECTION, ISA CONFIDED, GOB HAD DISCUSSED WITH SULTAN POSSIBILITY OF SAUDIS STATIONING A HAWK BATTERY ON BAHRAIN. ISA SAID THERE WAS ALSO SAUDI INTEREST IN HELPING QATAR AND BAHRAIN TO COMPOSE THEIR DIFFERENCES.

5. COMMENT: NOT KNOWING HOW SERIOUSLY SULTAN MAY HAVE TAKEN ANY BAHRAINI SUGGESTION THAT SAUDIS ARRANGE FOR HAWKS IN YARTR

BEHRAIN, I THOUGHT IT BEST NOT REACT TO ISA'S SOMEWHAT OFF-HAND MENTION OF SUBJECT. SAUDIS CERTAINLY KNOW PROBLEMS INVOLVED AND ARE AWARE THEY WILL HAVE TO COME TO USG WITH ANY THOUGHT OF PLACING ONE OF THEIR HAWK BATTERIES ON BAHRAIN.

I SUGGEST, THEREFORE, IT WOULD BE BEST LET THEM PURSUE SUBJECT WITH US IF THEY WISH.
STOLTZFUS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KUWAIT01163
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730438/aaaahzkf.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03-Aug-2001 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <07-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971215
Subject: MEETING WITH RULER OF BAHRAIN
TAGS: PFOR, BA, n/a
To: JIDDA
LONDON
MANAMA
NEA
SECSTATE WASHDC
TEHRAN
Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005